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SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1916.

Italy on the Defensive

It is conceivable that the advance of the Austrians against the Italian lines in the Tyrol will not cause unmitigated gloom in allied capitals. The whole course of Italy in the present war has been a disappointment to allied hopes. Italy has never declared war against Germany, and has conducted operations against Austria. It has seemed always, naturally for her own hand. She has never co-operated in any real sense, with the military plans of France, Britain and Russia. Now she will bear the brunt of the fighting. It may do her good—may make her understand that only the most fervent loyalty to the common cause can contribute to the common triumph.

The Tennessee Democrats claim to favor prohibition, but they still stand by Rye.

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that the Governor of the State was taking sides against the Attorney-General's agent, and a court has enjoined the raiders from removing the confiscated goods from the county in which they were found. The result of the mix-up seems to be up in the air. Virginia doesn't want to crowd over Alabama; at the same time, she is confident enough to bet on it that no such condition will arise here after November 1.

It may sound unreasonable, but when we have the censorship applicants for jobs ought to be required to show they possess some fitness for these positions.

Greater Navy Assured

THAT the House Committee on Naval Affairs has not gone far enough in providing for naval increases may be conceded. We shall hope to see the provision for two Dreadnoughts restored on the floor of the House, or in the Senate, along with the five-year building program. Three Dreadnoughts would be better.

Conceding this, however, the bill which the committee has decided to report in itself marks a new era in the history of the American navy. It provides for five battle cruisers, of thirty-five-knot speed, armed each with eight sixteen-inch guns or ten fourteen-inch guns, and carrying the heaviest armor possible for vessels of this type. They will be the finest and swiftest vessels of their class afloat, and are to cost \$102,000,000. Twenty submarines, four scout cruisers, ten destroyers, a hospital ship, a fuel ship and an ammunition ship also are authorized. The bill adds 16,500 men to the navy personnel.

So far as capital ships are concerned, the committee report goes further than the recommendations of Secretary Daniels. He asked for four—two Dreadnoughts and two battle cruisers—and the committee stands for five. Certainly we need fast vessels of great fighting strength, and five are not too many when we have none in existence or building. But we need also the Dreadnoughts. We need vessels as powerful in defense as in offense. Our navy is a defensive institution, and the battleship always must be its first reliance.

Secretary Daniels has said, his recommendations represented the minimum and not the maximum of the navy's needs. Doubtless he is as delighted as any one else that five battle cruisers are provided. The "little navy" men on the committee, who swore they would not vote for a single battleship, seem to have kept their own word of promise to the ear, while breaking it to the hope. They have voted for battle cruisers, which mean nearly the same thing.

The building that is to be done under the House committee report aggregates in cost \$160,000,000. This is more than three times the building appropriation made last year. There never has been a naval construction program that even approximated it. If it were further enlarged by provision for two or three Dreadnoughts and additional fleet and coast defense submarines, the country would feel satisfied.

No great army has been authorized. The conference report, which bids fair ultimately to receive the approval of Congress and the President, gives a regular establishment of something like 210,000 men, and provides pay for perhaps twice as many national guardsmen. That is not extravagant, certainly, for a nation of 100,000,000. It would be only a drop in the bucket if we ever became engaged in a real war, waged under conditions of modern warfare. Our navy must be our principal reliance. It must keep the enemy at bay while we are drilling and arming the hosts of volunteers that in times of danger would flock to the colors, or the conscripts that in such a situation we should call to the colors.

Not only can we afford to be generous to the navy, but we must be generous. Let us give it, in more and bigger ships and increased personnel, what we have saved on the army. House or Senate should place back in the measure the five-year program the committee has stricken out, for a program is of the very essence of wise naval expansion. Perhaps it would not bind future Congresses, but it would at least point their duty.

If silence be golden, Justice Hughes is worth several millions to any miner who ever traced a prospect.

Simply a Councilmanic Joke

AGAIN the absurdity of Richmond's ordinances governing the operation of automobiles has been demonstrated. David Dunlop, Jr., of Petersburg, was convicted a few days ago of speeding his automobile in the county of Henrico, was fined \$100 and sentenced to fifteen days in jail. His appeal from the magistrate's decision is pending. Friday morning he was convicted, in the Police Court of Richmond, of having been guilty of recklessly driving his automobile in the city while intoxicated.

In accordance with the provisions of section 47 of the traffic regulations, Police Justice Crutcher solemnly ordered that Dunlop's permit to operate a machine in Richmond be revoked. At first blush, the sentence seems a bit severe, if altogether just. On investigation, however, it becomes ridiculous, for the reason that Dunlop, not being a professional chauffeur, has no permit or license of any kind, and, therefore, none can be revoked. If he were a chauffeur for hire, he would have to obtain a State license, based on affidavits as to his ability to operate a car. As he is an owner, he is required only to obtain a meaningless permit from the Chief of Police that his car is the proper sort of machine to be driven through the streets of Richmond.

In other words, the car is licensed by the State and given a permit by the Chief of Police. After those provisions, which apply only to the car, have been complied with, the owner, his friends, relatives and acquaintances may operate it forever, regardless of habits or former convictions, provided only they are not chauffeurs for hire. In other words, again section 47, which purports to guard the public against intoxicated automobile drivers, is simply a little councilmanic joke.

A politician, this Oregon is hard to beat. He satisfied Scott and Funston, and now he is satisfying the Mexicans by swearing he never said he had any confidence in President Wilson. Still, if Oregon shows that we can trust him, we don't care whether he trusts us or not.

The New York World is still urging the Republicans to nominate Woodrow Wilson. That's their only chance to name a winner.

Short farm notes may be all right, but at this season the farmers would prefer to see the long green.

Seen on the Side

A Remedy for Insomnia.

More dead than the submarine.

As poured upon the troubled sea.

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News of Fifty Years Ago

From the Richmond Dispatch, May 20, 1866.

The Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia, in council at Alexandria yesterday, adopted by a vote of 80 to 18 a preamble and resolution recommending the Virginia house of representatives to resume the former ecclesiastical relations as a diocese with the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Convention of the United States.

Under the civil rights bill, Judge Underwood has appointed H. P. Foster to be United States commissioner for the District of Virginia. Just what the commissioner's duties will be, other than to draw his salary, doth not appear. His office will be in Richmond.

The United States Senate yesterday received from its amendment to the bill authorizing two annual terms of the United States Circuit Court in the District of Virginia, to commence on the first Monday in November and November. This action restores the authority of the Chief Justice of the United States to hold special terms of the court whenever he may deem it proper. This may mean an early trial of Mr. Davis. The bill now awaits the signature of the President.

A great scandal has sprung up in the management of the Freedmen's Bureau in Virginia and North Carolina, and President Johnson has found it necessary to issue orders directing the arrest of all officers of that detestable bureau who may be interested directly or indirectly in the cultivation of farms in the South. While the order pertains to the whole South, it is understood that the offenses complained of are largely confined to Virginia and North Carolina.

A fire at Goldsboro, N. C., last night destroyed a lot of four buildings, including the offices of the Daily News.

General Robert Toombs, of Georgia, has left Havana for Europe. Just what he continues to do from nobody knows. He did not do enough real service for the Confederacy, either in the army or in Congress, to make him in any way valuable to the United States. He is probably a good deal of a scoundrel, but as he has the money to pay his way, nobody has a right to object.

When the poet declines to enter politics by running for Congress in the Massachusetts district in which he lives, The Republican nomination was offered to him.

Countertop gold pieces of the \$2.00 and \$5.00 variety have become very numerous in Richmond. The counterfeit is a Yankee invention, and is so good that it is easy to pass them off. Two Richmond grocers, one of them a woman, yesterday took in over \$200 of them, and they are just that much out of pocket.

The Alexandria convention, reported in full in yesterday's paper, held another meeting yesterday and formally organized the Union for the public party of Virginia. John Miller Boats, Judge Underwood and Lewis McKenzie are the "musical chairs" of the party. The party is a new one, and is not to be confused with the old one. It is a new party, and is not to be confused with the old one.

Health Talks, by Dr. Wm. Brady

Phosphorus and Lung.

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Peace With Honor

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



From the Rochester Herald.

Properties of Spring Vegetables

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—If you have weak nerves and low vitality generally, eat spring onions regularly in small quantities, and if you are unable to sleep, eat them before retiring, for the essential oil of the onion is an excellent soporific. But if you are a full-blooded person, inclined to be feverish or bilious, the onion is not for you. It will make you sneeze and inspire and be uncomfortable generally.

The onion is by no means alone among fresh vegetables in having marked medicinal properties. Nearly all of them have strong acids and essential oils which produce various effects upon the body. Yet most persons eat them indiscriminately at this time of the year.

The strawberry, with its heavy coating of tiny seeds, is a vegetable of specific which bilious people will find beneficial, but which should be eaten sparingly by others. There is little food value in the berry. Wood and acid are its chief constituents.

Asparagus contains two acids, medicinal principles. Its essential substance, asparagus, stimulates the kidneys, while a green resin called mannite, which contains has a sedative effect upon the heart and still relieves palpitation or nervous excitement of that organ.

Common rhubarb is another vegetable which should be used with care, especially by young persons. It contains a large amount of oxalic acid which combines with alkalies to induce a gouty condition.

Celery Formerly Poisonous.

A naturally poisonous plant that has been made very edible by cultivation is the celery. Wild celery growing in the sunlight is a deadly plant; but the cultivated variety when buried and bleached becomes not only a dainty, but a genuine health food.

It contains a great deal of water, and for this reason is good for rheumatism. A famous British vegetarian writing in the London Times, asserts that a diet of celery, rheumatism is impossible. Celery is also a sedative effect upon the nerves. There are some very sensitive persons who cannot eat it, but for most it is an excellent vegetable, either cooked or raw.

Probably one of the best of American food habits is the abundant eating of lettuce in the summer time. This plant contains lactucarin, which has a genuine narcotic effect on the wild lettuce this principle is strong that a narcotic may easily be expressed from the stem of the plant; but in the cultivated variety there is just enough of it to make the vegetable palatable and to make it a healthy food. It is also a mild aperient, and has a generally soothing effect. It should not, however, be eaten with vinegar, as this acid will neutralize its best qualities.

Watercress is a vegetable which has never been properly appreciated in this country. There are few restaurants when you can order a watercress salad, and few homes where the plant is regularly served. Yet cress is rich in iodine, iron, phosphate and potash, and has genuine tonic value, especially in the spring. It is antiscorbutic and is credited with being beneficial in a great many ailments. It will clear your head in the morning and aid digestion. In England it is often eaten for breakfast with bread and butter, while in France it is popular as a garnish for the table. It is a vegetable of the most delicate and is generally dipped in vinegar or oil.

Useful Kite Flying

The Weather Bureau has equipped a unique kite-flying station eighteen miles west of Oklahoma, where a number of men are engaged daily in sending up large kites, or balloons, to carry into the air. This is to secure definite knowledge of atmospheric conditions which may affect weather changes, and will also be useful in arranging aerologic courses. The kites are sent up by the men, but they require a strong electrically operated reel to draw them to the earth again. The reel is thoroughly insulated, because the kites are flown upon copper wire, which conducts the natural electric force of the atmosphere, and could give the operator a serious shock if all contacts were not thoroughly protected.

Free Rides on a Movable Floor.

The patrons of a certain New York cafe are treated to a free ride while they take their meals. The tables are arranged in a large circle which revolves slowly about some musical or dancing "act" in the center. Those who begin their dinner at the entrance of the cafe may find themselves eating their salad course in the rear. The circle is thirty-two feet in diameter, and is moved by a one-fourth horsepower motor at the rate of one revolution per hour. The motion is too slow to be objectionable to anyone, but considerable amusement is afforded by the gradual change of location.

Largest Ferry in the World.

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